

Two Varieties of Farmers.

If you are a subscriber to the Agriculturist, you probably belong to the first-class. But perhaps you have a neighbor of the second-class, if so, can you not interest him in the Agriculturist and help him to become a reading farmer? Lend him this number of the paper and tell him to read the following from the New England Farmer:

Farmers may be divided into two classes, the wide-awake, thinking, reading, successful farmers, and the disheartened, discouraged, "don't believe it will pay" class. The first have their minds constantly on their business, and are continually studying and planning ways for doing better now than they did last year and still better in the future. They look ahead and only look backwards for lessons that will help in the future. They read the papers treating upon farm matters and methods, and they talk with their neighbors in regard to best kinds of crops, seeds, etc., and the best breeds of animals adapted to the locality and needs of the market. They join the grange and farmers' club if there is one near by, and if not are among the first to start the organizing of one. They do not join for the sole purpose of getting good, but are free to give as well as receive. They know that knowledge is worth something and that it is no more than fair to help pay for it. If one of this class becomes a member of an agricultural society and exhibits animals or farm products in competition for prizes he does not look alone at the money offered or obtained, but has a higher object in view, that of learning how to farm better and with better results. He does not care for the best horse in town merely to show off with, nor the best herd of cattle for the name of it, but for their intrinsic worth more than that of ordinary animals. He drains his land with tiles or otherwise, because he believes that the increased production will more than pay the cost in a term of years. If fences are needed he builds good ones, but he does not follow in old ruts because it will be too much of an effort to strike out in a new and better course. He does not buy a multitude of new-fashioned tools and implements above the actual needs, nor does he get taken in by every itinerant promoter who would make him an agent for his section for some worthless invention. He is not all the time looking out for ways of getting something for nothing. He has no money to send out to the mountains in search of valuable minerals for he knows that faithful digging in his own soil will bring fair returns for labor expended. He prefers the bird in hand to any number of them in other people's bushes. He is fearful about going in debt, but is not afraid to borrow money for needed investment in his land provided he can clearly see the end from the beginning. He is careful to meet his obligations as they become due and is reasonably lenient with neighbors who may be unfortunate. He tries to buy what he needs at those seasons of the year when he can buy at the best advantage. He avoids as much as possible the living from hand to mouth and takes advantage of wholesale prices when he can.

He realizes that boards are cheaper than hay and grain for protecting animals from the Arctic temperature of winter. He knows, too, that animals cannot live without air, and so with provision for warmth he looks out for ventilation as well. He knows that if he would have his farm well stocked with healthy young animals in their season, he must provide for them months in advance. He knows that haphazard farming is not good farming. He knows that seasoned wood is better to burn and cheaper in the long run than green, and he keeps a full supply on hand under cover and where convenient for use. When through with using a tool or implement it is

cleaned and housed away from the weather, and before laying by for the season any needed repairs are made. He believes that money spent for agricultural literature is better expended than for lighter reading or for momentary entertainment at cheap shows and concerts, though he does not undervalue reasonable recreation and innocent amusement. He believes that life is worth living, and although trying to be a good and successful farmer he realizes that it is much more to be a full man, a citizen and useful member of the community. In the other class are a great many men who are farmers in name and by the accidents of existence. They may be farmers by inheritance, with no love or regard for the business nor energy enough to get out of it and be something else. They read little and think less, but follow in a beaten path because it is easier than to strike out in a new one. They are sure that there is no money in farming unless one has abundant capital that some one else has earned. They feel a little ugly towards those who are successful and claim that it is due to their good luck rather than to ability and close attention to business.

They are always behindhand in all their undertakings. The weather rarely suits for they are never ready to take advantage of the present opportunity. Their land is too wet in spring and too dry in summer and the autumn frosts come before they are ready for them. Delayed planting brings along the weeding and hoeing just when the haying should be under way, and as a consequence the grass gets over ripe and may not be worth half price for feeding in the coming winter. Their over-ripe grain wastes in the harvesting and their potatoes get frozen in while their apples are blown off and lie rotting under the trees.

Through neglecting to look after mowing machines when not in use they find when most needed that some new piece is wanted that it may take several days to procure from the agent or factory. Their cows calve at the wrong season or go farrow and must be traded off at a needless loss. Men of this class usually attend all the auctions looking for something cheap and generally find it more dear than cheap when they come to use the articles.

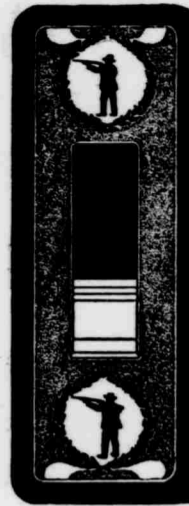
Men of this class never seem to have any idea of thoroughness in anything. They almost invariably partially cultivate too many acres. The work is poorly done and the result is half crops instead of full ones. In these times half-crops do not and cannot pay. The labor cost takes away all possible profit. It is the poor farming that "don't pay," and it always must be so as long as there are good farmers to compete in the markets. Good farmers are generally fairly satisfied with the business. If not as productive as they would like they set their brains to work to find a better way of management. It never helps a lazy farmer's case the least bit to sit on the fence and grumble about bad weather or bad luck. There is such a thing as luck, but most of the so-called bad luck in the world is due simply to ignorance, bad management or wasteful habits.

In writing the above ideas which seem so clear and correct to me the saddest thought in their connection is that they will not be read by those who most need their consideration. We who read and value reading must lend our papers and books to such as we think need them, and so endeavor to wake into life and action the more dormant brains of this unthinking class.

Growth of a Reform.

The following from the Bradford Telegraph contains some very sound ideas on the subject of rate legislation. We are glad to see that the editor thinks that our Florida members of congress are sound on the R. R. rate question. Still it will do no harm to let them know your views

WINCHESTER



"Leader" and "Repeater"

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Carefully inspected shells, the best combinations of powder, shot and wadding, loaded by machines which give invariable results are responsible for the superiority of Winchester "Leader" and "Repeater" Factory Loaded Smokeless Powder Shells. There is no guesswork in loading them. Reliability, velocity, pattern and penetration are determined by scientific apparatus and practical experiments. Do you shoot them? If not, why not? They are

THE SHELLS THE CHAMPIONS SHOOT

on this subject when you write to them about a parcels post law.

It is interesting to note the growth of a reform movement. A few years ago some of the newspapers of the country—mostly the weeklies—began advocating the extension of the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission in order that railroad rates on interstate shipments might be regulated. Gradually the movement gained recruits, a politician here and there embodying it in his platform until now it is one of our leading public issues and has as its most forceful champion the president of the United States. The president's attitude on the question gives rise to the belief that the necessary legislation will be enacted at the coming session of congress, and the people of the whole country are looking to the national law-makers with hope and confidence that they will speedily extend the usefulness of the commission.

There is hardly a section of the country that is not directly interested in this legislation. No state in the Union is more interested than Florida, and no locality in Florida more than the strawberry-producing section of Bradford county. The expansion of this industry has been dwarfed for years by the unreasonable rates charged for transportation to the markets. When we say unreasonable rates we speak advisedly, for it came out in a recent investigation that the Armour Refrigerator Car Co. transports strawberries from North Carolina to New York for 37 cents per bushel, while from Starke and Lawtey the rate is \$2.56. This tremendous difference in rates shows that the carriers are charging the Florida growers an enormously exorbitant rate, the immediate effect of which is to so increase the cost of his product that the market for it is necessarily limited to the class of people who are able to pay fancy prices. Thus it is that the industry has never been able to reach its fullest development and the progress of a whole community has thereby been impeded.

With a rate even treble that of the North Carolina rate strawberries would very soon be shipped from Starke and Lawtey by trainload, and the market would be so greatly enlarged by the reduction in cost that every quart of them would find ready sale. It will be seen, therefore, that the settlement of this great public issue comes directly home to us, and it is pleasing to know that our senators and representatives in congress will support the railroad rate legislation.

Artificial or Natural Manures.

Probably there are few of our readers who do not use more or less commercial fertilizer every year. Still there may be those who are doubtful whether the fertility of the soil can be kept up under the exclusive use of such materials. It is a matter of history that they have been used for more than a century in foreign coun-

tries and that the soil has not deteriorated but rather improved.

We quote below two articles on the subject, the first from Coleman's Rural World:

We are often confronted with the above query, which at least goes to show that every farmer has not yet become satisfied in his own mind that their use is profitable. Speaking from our own observation and experience, which covers a period of almost a half-century, we would unhesitatingly answer the above query in the affirmative. Yes! when intelligently, judiciously and rightly handled they cannot fail of being profitable any more than the sun can refuse to shine. This we are aware will be considered rather strong language by some, and more especially by those who have actually "sunk money" in times past and gone by their irrational and injudicious use.

But the fact remains that the great trinity, potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen are each and all true plant foods; in fact, as much so as is bread or meat, vegetables or fruit to the human race, and that all three of the above named fertilizing agents are as indispensable to the life, health, growth and general well-being of the vegetable world as are bread, meat and vegetables and fruits indispensable to the life, growth and general well-being of the human family. Errors in diet check growth and induce disease in the human family, and the same is equally true when applied to the food of either plants or animals.

A properly-balanced ration can, in the case of either mankind, the animal creation or the vegetable world alone insure best results to the health, growth, vitality and usefulness. Not only is it essential in order to best results, that the diet be judiciously balanced in the case of either man, beast or plant, but there must also be a sufficiency of it to insure a healthy, active, robust, vigorous growth, and right here is where so many of our farming brethren fail to get best results from their fertilizers, for the reason that, even in the case where they may have a properly-balanced fertilizer, they use it too stingingly, apply it too grudgingly, and, taking all circumstances connected therewith into consideration, expect too much of it. They purchase a low-grade 8-2-2 fertilizer because it is cheap (?) or rather low in price when compared with a higher grade (say 0-3-4) though the latter is really the cheapest, and is in fact as low a grade complete fertilizer as should ever be purchased for any crop or any soil where a complete fertilizer is needed. They then use of said low-grade fertilizer 100 to 200 pounds per acre, and look for profitable results. To look for increased yields and increased fertility from any such niggardly means is about as reasonable as undertaking to dip the Atlantic into the Pacific with a teaspoon; the one feat will be accomplished about as readily as the other.

The very fact that there is oftentimes a profitable yield from even